

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated October 17, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Applicants also thank the Examiner for the telephone interview of March 14, 2008 and have endeavored to address the Examiner's concerns in this amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §101

Claims 35, 37-44, 75, 77-79, 82 and 84-89 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Independent claims 35 and 75 are amended to include a computer-readable medium as requested by the Examiner. Thus, claim 37-44, which depend from claim 35, and claims 77-79, 82, and 84-89, which depend from claim 75, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-11, 13, 16-17, 35, 37-44, 64-65, 69-70, 75, 77-79, 82, and 84-89 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,434,524 (Weber), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,995,918 (Kendall). Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are patentable over Weber in view of Kendall.

Regarding independent claim 1, neither Weber nor Kendall, alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest a speech recognition apparatus including a processor configured to analyze and modify a grammar prior to receiving a speech input, wherein the speech input is not an acceptable response in the grammar, but is acceptable in the modified grammar. Weber teaches an object interactive user interface using speech recognition and language processing updates, wherein a general grammar and context-specific grammar include new information related to a user's responses during a context-based interactive dialogue. Weber does not disclose a processor configured to analyze the grammar prior to receiving speech input, to identify at least one characteristic of the grammar independent of prior speech input (see 10/17/07 Office Action, p. 4). Kendall discloses a system and method for creating a language grammar. The grammar is generated by a developer using the grammar developer toolkit (i.e., a spread-sheet

oriented software package) (Col. 5, ll. 51-53). When the grammar is defined, the computer software system automatically traverses the table to enumerate all possible valid utterances in the grammar (10/17/07 Office Action, p. 4). This traversal generates a listing (corpus) of valid utterances and their respective tokens. (Id.) Thus, Kendall discloses analyzing a spreadsheet (i.e., the toolkit) and then producing a grammar and annotated ASR corpus which are in a form to be used by a speech recognition program. To the extent Kendall discusses optimizing a grammar file, this optimization is limited to modifying rules to take advantage of peculiarities relating to a chosen speech recognizer (Col. 6, ll. 7-13). That is, Kendall only modifies the rules (for example, combining two rules into one combined rule) associated with the acceptable spoken responses, which were previously specified by the creator of the spreadsheet defining the voice user interface. Kendall does not address grammar modification which results in a grammar which allows new spoken responses which were not previously specified in the grammar or the spreadsheet from which it is generated. Specifically, claim 1 recites a speech recognition apparatus including a first application configured to output a grammar in a form to be used by a speech recognizer, and to receive the user selection associated with the grammar, and a voice application platform adapted to receive a speech input and to receive the grammar from the first application, and to output the user selection to the first application, the voice application platform including a processor configured to analyze the grammar prior to receiving the speech input, to identify at least one characteristic of the grammar independent of prior speech input, and to modify the grammar based on the at least one characteristic, and a speech recognizer coupled to the processor and configured to interpret the speech input as a function of the modified grammar, and to produce the user selection, wherein the speech input is not an acceptable response in the grammar received from the first application, but is an acceptable response in the modified grammar. For least these reasons, independent claim 1 and claims 3, 4, 6-11, 13, 16, 64, 65, 69 and 70 which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are patentable over Weber in view of Kendall.

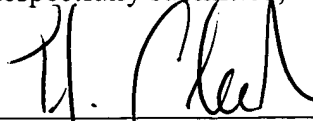
Regarding independent claim 35, neither Weber nor Kendall alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest a computer executable method of modifying a first grammar as a function of a characteristic to produce a second grammar

representative of a second set of responses, wherein at least a portion of the second set of responses are not included in the first set of responses. Weber modifies a grammar based upon previous user input, and does not analyze a grammar in a form to be used by a speech recognizer. Kendall optimizes rules within a grammar such that number of rules can be reduced (Col. 6, ll. 10-16). In contrast, claim 35 recites a method of providing a user interface including receiving a first grammar in a form to be used by a speech recognizer from an application, the first grammar including information representative of a first set of responses expected to be received by the application, analyzing the first grammar to identify a characteristic prior to receiving the first set of responses, modifying the first grammar as a function of the characteristic to produce a second grammar representative of a second set of responses, wherein at least a portion of the second set of responses are not included in the first set of responses, and interpreting a user's voice input based on the second grammar. For at least these reasons, independent claim 35 and claims 37-44, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 35, are patentable over Weber in view of Kendall.

Regarding independent claim 75, Weber and Kendall do not teach, disclose, or suggest a method of providing a user interface including analyzing a first grammar prior to receiving a first set of responses to identify a characteristic, and selecting a response to be sent to the application as a function of the characteristic, wherein the selected response is sent to the application without receiving input from a user. Weber discloses update modifications to a grammar that provide a system for adaptability learning to recognize phrases uttered by a user, so that the next time the user asks for information, a proper match is found and appropriate actions taken without prompting the user for more information. Thus, the actions taken in Weber are based on at least a phrase uttered by the user. Kendall discloses analyzing a spreadsheet and then producing a grammar and corpus which are in a form to be used by a speech recognition program. Neither Weber nor Kendall disclose sending a response to an application without receiving input from the user, as recited in claim 75. For at least these reasons, independent claim 75 and claims 77-79, 82, and 84-89, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 75, are patentable over Weber in view of Kendall.

Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' Attorney at the number provided below with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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